

# Corrections Offender Programs

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## Mission

To promote and operate a continuum of programs that enhances security and safety and fosters the integration of the offending individual into the community.

## Summary of Activities

The Department of Correction (DOC), Division of Programs and Community Services offers a variety of programs for offenders. They include educational opportunities in 27 juvenile and adult facilities. Based on an assessment of student needs, courses include literacy, adult basic education, GED, high school, vocational, and post secondary classes. Associate and bachelor degree programs are offered through Indiana universities and colleges.

Health services and clinical services at facilities include general and specialty outpatient, dental, nursing coverage, chronic care, intake and screening, mental health care (residential and outpatient), infirmary, dialysis and emergency care. Hospital care is provided off-site. With the exception of nursing care, most health services are provided by contractual providers.

Community involvement and religious services include religious worship, instruction, and spiritual care consistent with an offender's preferred faith. The DOC also assists victims and witnesses by notifying those regarding releases and other changes in offender status.

Holistic substance abuse programs focus on accountability and correcting "think errors" (cognitive restructuring). The programs use incentives and sanctions. Drug testing is an integral part of these programs. Traditional twelve-step programs are also offered. During 2002, over 70,000 hours of clinical services were provided to over 7,700 offenders, with more than 4,000 successful completions. Productivity by the department's substance abuse program continued to increase significantly. In addition a 144-bed intensive Therapeutic Community treatment program was implemented in late 2002. This program was developed utilizing federal funds, and is located at New Castle Correctional Facility, a new special needs facility.

Recreation programs provide opportunities for structured recreational activities. There are gymnasiums in the major facilities where approximately 150 full-time recreation staff deliver both active and passive activities, including basketball and arts and crafts. Programs for juvenile offenders include field trips, swimming, and camping. Adaptive activities for offenders with physical or mental disabilities are provided.

The DOC transition program provides all adult offenders who are nearing the end of their term of incarceration with information and skills designed to aid successful reintegration into work, family and community life. Four-thousand, twenty-four (4,024) offenders completed the standard program, offering eighty hours of instruction at seventeen facilities, in 2002. Another 4,071 received an abbreviated program. Cognitive behavioral programs and other evidenced based components were added to the curriculum during 2002.

The Sex Offender Management and Monitoring Program is a research-based, three-phase approach to managing and monitoring adult sex offenders. Phase I consists of a mandatory, fifteen-hour awareness program in which offenders are challenged to take responsibility for their actions. Phase II occurs during incarceration at one of eight facilities and includes risk assessment and a cognitive-behavioral program. The purpose is to increase staff and offender understanding of the offender's sex offense cycle, allowing for development of relapse prevention and community supervision plans. Phase III is the community component where offenders released to parole or probation participate in treatment and are subject to intensive supervision and polygraph exams. Treatment is focused on community safety and the needs of victims, rather than the needs of the offender-client. The DOC currently has about 3,200 sex offenders incarcerated and 500 under parole supervision.

## External Factors

The need to provide effective correctional programming is an ongoing goal for the department. As the number of offenders continues to increase, the need for additional staff to provide programs also increases. Several factors influence the type of programming offered. For example, 85% of DOC offenders have a significant history of substance abuse. Also, rising public concern about sex offenders has led to statutes developing a sex offender

registry, requiring sex offender registration, mandating DNA sample collection, and placing restrictions on where sex offenders may reside in relation to schools and day care centers.

## Evaluation and Accomplishments

Although total educational enrollment was down 4% in FY02/03, program completion increased by 14%. During FY03, there were over 331,000 bed days of credit time earned as a result of offender's successfully completing substance abuse programs. Overall productivity in the Substance Abuse Program increased by 25% in FY03 compared to FY02. The Westville Therapeutic Community (Substance Abuse) won the Indiana Correctional Association Program of the Year award in 2002. A Director of Case Management position was created by reallocation of resources. This new position will take the lead in implementing and improving case management for adult offenders. The programs area increased its focus on individual best practice approaches in several areas. This included increased utilization of cognitive behavioral techniques in substance abuse and transition programming.

## Plans for the Biennium

The Education Services Division will establish a Common Core Database to provide data to verify and measure the Division's, as well as the local school's, progress in programming and individual student achievement. The database will support the reporting and analytical requirements of the Department and other state and federal agencies. The Department of Correction will continue to work with other criminal justice stakeholders to improve the management of Indiana Sex Offenders, and develop and implement SOMM programming at the New Castle Correctional Facility, as funding becomes available. The Department will reduce waiting lists for eligible offenders to receive substance abuse programs by expanding the availability of intensive Substance Abuse Therapeutic Community Treatment beds. They will continue to develop a restorative justice program that will benefit both victims and offenders. Programs to explore include victim awareness, impact panels, family group conferencing, service-restitution and mediation. The Department will improve the overall case management approach in dealing with the adult offender population. Resources were re-allocated to develop a Case Management Director's position to facilitate this important initiative. Recruitment for this critical position is currently in process. The current Transition Program will be reviewed and revised. This will be necessary to appropriately complement the increased focus on case management as well as to support increased utilization of the Community Transition Program.

